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Filed: September 12, 2003
Amendment and Response to Final Office Action dated 09/22/06

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 - (a) receiving a first search query;
receiving a second search query;
 - (b) ~~determining~~ identifying a relationship between the first search related-query
related to the search query and the second search query based at least in part on a
criterion;
 - (e) determining a first article associated with the second search query; ~~and~~
 - (d) determining a first ranking score for the first article based at least in part on data
associated with the first search related-query; and
outputting a search result comprising the first article.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the data associated with the
first search related-query comprises a total selection score for the first search related
query.

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3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the total selection score comprises a total number of users that selected a result returned for a search for the first search related-query.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the data associated with the first search related-query comprises an instance score for the first search related-query.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the instance score comprises a number of instances the first article was shown in a search result for the first search related-query.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the data associated with the first search related-query comprises a selection score for the first article.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the selection score for the first article comprises selections made in search results for the first search related-query in a context of the second search query.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the total selection score for the first search related-query comprises selections made in search results for the first search related-query in a context of the second search query.

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9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the instance score for the first search ~~related~~-query comprises selections made in search results for the first search ~~related~~-query in a context of the second search query.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the number of instances the first article was shown in a search result for the first search ~~related~~-query comprises instances included in a context of the second search query.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the data associated with the first search ~~related~~-query comprises a second selection score for a second article associated with the first search ~~related~~-query.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the first article associated with the second search query comprises determining the first article associated with the second search query and with the first search ~~related~~-query.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising determining a first selection score for the first article when associated with the first search ~~related~~-query, and wherein determining the first ranking score for the first article based at least in part on data associated with the first search ~~related~~-query comprises determining the first ranking score for the first article based at least in part on the first selection score.

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14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein determining the first article associated with the second search query and with the first search ~~related~~-query comprises:

determining an initial search result for the second search query, the initial search result comprising the first article; and

determining that a search result for the first search ~~related~~-query comprises the first article.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first article comprises a representation of the first article.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the representation of the first article comprises a uniform resource locator.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the first ranking score for the first article based at least in part on data associated with the first search ~~related~~-query comprises determining a number of times the first article was selected when included in search results for the first search ~~related~~-query.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein determining the number of times the first article was selected when presented in search results for the first search

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~~related~~ query comprises determining a number of clickthroughs for the first article when presented in search results for the first search ~~related~~ query.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein determining the first ranking score for the first article comprises:

determining a first initial ranking score for the first article when associated with the second search query; and

calculating a mathematical function comprising the first initial ranking score and the first selection score.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein calculating the mathematical function comprising the first initial ranking score and the first selection score comprises combining the first initial ranking score and the first selection score, weighted with at least one weighting factor.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein calculating the mathematical function comprising the first initial ranking score and the first selection score comprises combining the first initial ranking score and the first selection score, normalized with at least one normalization factor.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising

(e) determining a second article associated with the second search query; and

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(~~+~~) determining a second ranking score for the second article based at least in part on data associated with the first search ~~related~~ query.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising ranking the first article and the second article based at least in part on the first ranking score and the second ranking score.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising providing a search result for the second search query having the first article and the second article ranked according at least in part to the first ranking score and the second ranking score.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving a third search query; and determining a second-related-relationship between the third search query and related to the second search query, and wherein determining the first ranking score for the first article is further based at least in part on data associated with the ~~second related-third search query~~.

26. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining the first search ~~related~~ query further comprises determining a query previously made consecutively with the second search query.

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27. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing program code, comprising:

program code for receiving a first search query;

program code for receiving a second search query;

program code for determining a relationship between the first search related-query
related to the search query and the second search query based at least in part on a
criterion;

program code for determining a first article associated with the second search
query; and

program code for determining a first ranking score for the first article based at
least in part on data associated with the first search related-query; and
outputting a search result comprising the first article.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the
data associated with the first search related-query comprises a total selection score for the
first search related-query.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the
total selection score comprises a total number of users that selected a result returned for a
search for the first search related-query.

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30. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the data associated with the first search ~~related~~-query comprises an instance score for the first search ~~related~~-query.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the instance score comprises a number of instances the first article was included in a search result for the first search ~~related~~-query.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the data associated with the first search ~~related~~-query comprises a selection score for the first article.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the selection score for the first article comprises selections made in search results for the first search ~~related~~-query in a context of the second search query.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the total selection score for the first search ~~related~~-query comprises selections made in search results for the first search ~~related~~-query in a context of the second search query.

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35. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the instance score for the first search ~~related~~-query comprises selections made in search results for the first search ~~related~~-query in a context of the second search query.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the number of instances the first article was included in a search result for the first search ~~related~~-query comprises instances shown in a context of the second search query.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the data associated with the first search ~~related~~-query comprises a second selection score for a second article associated with the first search ~~related~~-query.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein determining the first article associated with the second search query comprises determining the first article associated with the second search query and with the first search ~~related~~-query.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 38, further comprising determining a first selection score for the first article when associated with the first search ~~related~~-query, and wherein determining the first ranking score for the first article based at least in part on data associated with the first search ~~related~~-query

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comprises determining the first ranking score for the first article based at least in part on the first selection score.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 38, wherein determining the first article associated with the second search query and with the first search related query comprises:

determining an initial search result for the second search query, the initial search result comprising the first article; and

determining that a search result for the first search related query comprises the first article.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the first article comprises a representation of the first article.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein the representation of the first article comprises a uniform resource locator.

43. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein determining the first ranking score for the first article based at least in part on data associated with the first search related query comprises determining a number of times the first article was selected when included in search results for the first search related query.

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44. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein determining the number of times the first article was selected when presented in search results for the first search ~~related~~-query comprises determining a number of clickthroughs for the first article when presented in search results for the first search ~~related~~-query.

45. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 39, wherein determining the first ranking score for the first article comprises:

determining a first initial ranking score for the first article when associated with the second search query; and

calculating a mathematical function comprising the first initial ranking score and the first selection score.

46. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein calculating the mathematical function comprising the first initial ranking score and the first selection score comprises combining the first initial ranking score and the first selection score, weighted with at least one weighting factor.

47. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 46, wherein calculating the mathematical function comprising the first initial ranking score and the first selection score comprises combining the first initial ranking score and the first selection score, normalized with at least one normalization factor.

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48. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising:

- (e) program code for determining a second article associated with the second search query; and
- (f) program code for determining a second ranking score for the second article based at least in part on data associated with the first search ~~related~~-query.

49. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 48, further comprising computer code for ranking the first article and the second article based at least in part on the first ranking score and the second ranking score.

50. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 48, further comprising computer code for providing a search result for the second search query having the first article and the second article ranked according at least in part to the first ranking score and the second ranking score.

51. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising computer code for determining a relationship between a third search ~~second related-query and related to the second~~ search query, and wherein determining the first ranking score for the first article is further based at least in part on data associated with the third search ~~second related~~-query.

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52. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein determining the first ~~search related~~ query further comprises determining a query previously made consecutively with the second search query.

53. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
receiving a first search query;
receiving a second search query;
identifying a plurality of articles associated with the second search query;
identifying a relationship between the first search related query having a ~~relationship to~~ and the second search query;
determining at least one quality signal for a first article from the plurality of articles, wherein the quality signal is associated at least in part with the first search related query; and
calculating a first ranking score for the first article based at least in part on the quality signal; and
outputting a search result comprising the first article.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising ranking the first article against at least some of the plurality of articles based at least in part on the first ranking score.

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55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the quality signal comprises clickthrough data.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the first ranking score for the first article is calculated based at least in part on the relationship of the first search ~~related~~-query and the second search query.

57. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the criterion is at least one of an order of submission, a time period, a misspelling relationship, a synonym relationship, an antonym relationship, or an acronym relationship.

58. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the criterion is at least one of an order of submission, a time period, a misspelling relationship, a synonym relationship, an antonym relationship, or an acronym relationship.